PARKING ADVISORY PANEL MEETING

The PARKING ADVISORY PANEL (PAP) met on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, at 3:30 p.m. as a virtual Zoom meeting.

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Joan Fenton. The following members were present as well as Ms. Fenton: Michael Cusano, Kirby Hutto, Danny Yoder, and Jamelle Bouie. City staff in attendance were Chris Engel, Rick Siebert and Jason Ness.

The minutes for the April meeting was than unanimously approved.

The first topic on the agenda was the status of the letter regarding contract parking enforcement. Ms. Fenton said it had been signed and sent to Mr. Boyles. Mr. Engle said he had not discussed the letter with Mr. Boyles but he would check it had been received and follow up on the Panel's recommendation.

A draft Parking Action Plan had been sent to all the Panel members prior to the meeting by Mr. Siebert. He indicated it encompassed the comments he had heard from the members over the last few meetings. It had also been posted on the city website with the Panel meeting announcement for public notice.

Mr. Yoder was the first to comment. He suggested it was a good idea to define the disbursement of Parking Enterprise Fund (PEF) funds but that definition needed to be very broad in the Plan.

Mr. Bouie seconded Mr. Yoder comments.

Mr. Siebert then provided a description of how the PEF worked in Montgomery County, MD, as a case study. He described the Fund as defined in the County Code. He went on to indicate the Code defined the sources and uses of the parking funds. Primary sources being parking fees and parking ticket revenue. He described the priority of the uses of the funds as indicated in the Code. First being to pay the revenue bond obligations of the PEF and then operating expenses. He indicated the Code also talked about the need for reserves in the fund for future capital maintenance expenses and future construction to meet parking demand. He went on to say the Code defined specific annual transfers from net revenue to business improvement districts where the funds were generated and a TDM program in those areas.

Mr. Hutto suggested the Plan should simply recommend a formal PEF be established by code and the discussion of transfers should be saved for the negotiation surrounding the passage of the code.

Mr. Siebert agreed with that recommendation.

Ms. Fenton asked what time of the year might be best to push this issue. Mr. Engel suggested it could be part of the FY23 budget discussion and recommend perhaps August could be a time to get started.

There were a few brief comments on the merits of a parking exemption for all new construction. The consensus was that the current parking exempt zone and parking modified zones were the best way to deal with issue and the Panel supported this area specific system.

Mr. Hutto suggested the Plan needed to specifically address the need for parking enforcement. Mr. Siebert agreed to add that.

There was then a discussion of the concept of bundling parking with commercial and residential leases. The consensus was that the Plan did not need to address this issue because it was not really a problem in Charlottesville, at this time.

Mr. Siebert agreed to incorporate this meetings comments in the Plan and send it back out by email to the Panel members and then submit it to circulate it among city staff for final approval.

Under New Business the Chair proposed the Panel adjust its meeting schedule to bi-monthly. No one expressed the need for monthly meetings at this time and it was decided the next meeting would be held at the standard time on Tuesday the 20th of July. Then the following meeting would be in September. Considering the upcoming FY23 budget the next meetings would be in October and November and then January and bi-monthly thereafter.

Public Comment was the last item on the agenda. Ms. Fenton asked for the floor to be opened. There was no public comment and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:05 p.m.